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To: EIS_Office@ymp.gov, WolfspiritM@excite.com

cc:

Subject: YUCCA MOUNTAIN

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EIS Office

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste

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To Whom It May Concern:

1 [It has come to my attention that the DOE is moving ahead to make the sacred Shoshone Yucca Mountain that is also leaky and geologically unstable the nation's high-level nuclear waste dump. Since this appears to be the case, I wish to present my comments on this issue and on the draft supplemental EIS which appears to me to be designed to expedite the dump license.

This plan is categorically wrong since both the Western Shoshone Nation and the State of Nevada oppose this dump. In addition, all evidence points to an active magma pocket below the site as well as the site being located in a major fault area!

It seems to me that the Bush Global Nuclear Energy Partnership is driving your office the DOE to do anything to get irradiated high-level radioactive waste off nuclear power reactor sites (ie off the corporations' backs) and into the tax-payer's pocket (ie on our backs). It is my understanding that the DOE is now planning to use a standardized Transport and Disposal waste container (TAD) and while they will reduce the number of shipments of highly radioactive waste, the reactor-site loading of these containers would create situations where accident consequences would go up.] ... Continued below

2 [Rail might be used more and while rail may be preferred, rail beds throughout the USA have been allowed to deteriorate to an alarmingly sad state. Also, regulations allow a shipment to sit in a rail yard for extended periods (up to 2 years) so security in urban transport hubs may be a serious issue.]

1 [Yucca Mountain is sacred to the Shoshone as an herb gathering site, for
Continued

rituals, and as a part of their Creation stories. Yucca Mountain is known in Shoshone language as Snake Mountain and it looks like a snake. It is said that the snake was headed north when it froze where it is. Furthermore it is said that it will move again and "flip around". Geologists say that there are thirteen different fault lines running through it.] ... continued below

If these reasons were not sufficient to preclude Yucca Mountain from being the nuclear repository site, there are numerous other reasons why this is WRONG!

3 1. [Groundwater below the mountain flows in a closed geologic basin which covers thousands of square miles. Research has defined fast pathways, including groundwater and surfacewater, from Yucca Mountain to area springs used for drinking water.

2. Rain in the area appears to result in flash floods that travel rapidly, causing any escaping radionuclides to travel down river channels. A high-level nuclear waste repository is required to isolate the waste for hundreds of thousands of years and based on rapidly changing climate conditions, this site would be unable to do so.] ... continued below

4 3. [All of the proposed site is within the treaty lands of the Western Shoshone Nation. The treaty was ratified by Congress in 1863. The treaty has been upheld by the U.N. Committee to End Racial Discrimination, which has also named the Yucca Project an ongoing human rights violation.]

3 continued 4. [The base of the mountain is home to the state's largest dairy providing milk to as far away as Los Angeles, and the valley in which the mountain lies shares the aquifer with the mountain.]

5 5. [While the use of TADs might simplify repository surface facility design and operation, in reality it transfers risks and impacts from the repository to the reactor locations where the handling operations take place. The risks and impacts to workers, facilities, communities and the environment at all the reactor locations have not been assessed.

6. TADs can only be shipped by rail or by large, oversized, heavy-haul trucks. Rail access is not available at Yucca Mountain and very well may never be. The impacts of a TAD based transportation system that cannot use rail as the primary transportation mode has not been assessed.

7. Since there is no final TAD design in the draft SEIS, it is difficult to assess how they will impact the repository system.

8. The proposed TAD system is not compatible with dry storage systems currently in use at civilian nuclear power plants.]

6 9. [The Draft EIS does not consider worst case scenarios or accidents.

10. It underestimates the consequences of severe accidents involving long] duration fires.

7 11. [It underestimates the consequences of terrorist attack.

12. It dismisses the potential for human error to exacerbate the consequences of accidents or terrorist attacks.]

13. It dismisses the potential for unique, local conditions to exacerbate the consequences of accidents or terrorist attacks.]

8 14. [Because the Walker River Paiute Tribe has refused permission for DOE to use any portion of its reservation for the proposed rail spur, without which the Mina route cannot be used, it is inappropriate for DOE to have included Mina as an alternative for comparing rail corridors in the draft EIS. Consequently the Mina route is not viable and should have been excluded from the EIS.]

9 15. [The Rail DEIS No Action Alternative is also inappropriate and perhaps unlawful.

16. The repository SEIS should have evaluated the impacts of a legal weight truck transport system nationwide and within Nevada.]

10 17. [The rail DEIS does not fully evaluate repository shipments into Nevada from California or the impacts to northern Nevada.]

11 18. [Because DOE has now announced that the rail line it proposes would be a "shared use" line, the USDOT Surface Transportation Board should be the lead agency that prepares the Rail Alignment EIS.]

12 19. [The DOE contention that non-rail shipments would be made by over-weight trucks is unsubstantiated, and the impacts of the use of over-weight trucks in Nevada and elsewhere are not analyzed.]

Continues

1 [It is very clear that the proposal to use Yucca Mountain as a repository for high level radioactive waste is as untenable as it is immoral, for all of the above reasons and more which I have not addressed due to time constraints. Suffice it to say that I am absolutely, unequivocally opposed to the project. It is another Chernobyl just waiting to happen.]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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